

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 06110 220825Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-01 SS-15 NSC-05 PRS-01 /033 W
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P 220723Z OCT 77
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6059

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 6110

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CASC, OTRA (WINN, MICHAEL) ET, US
SUBJECT: TRAVEL OF MICHAEL WINN TO ETHIOPIA AS CORRESPONDENT

REF: SEN MAGNUSON LETTER TO CHARGE DTD 10/10/77

1. WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED LETTER FROM SEN MAGNUSON DATED OCT 10, ADVISING ME OF TRAVEL OF HIS ACQUAINTANCE, MICHAEL WINN, TO ETHIOPIA FOR INITIAL PURPOSE OF JOINING COMMERCIAL RAFT EXPEDITION ON OMO RIVER (IN SOUTHWEST) BUT FOR SECONDARY REASON TO BE "ENGAGED AS A CORRESPONDENT COVERING POLITICAL AND MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS IN ETHIOPIA." SEN MAGNUSON REQUESTS OUR ASSISTANCE TO ARRANGE INTERVIEWS WITH ETHIOPIAN OFFICIALS AND EXTEND WINN WHATEVER OTHER COURTESIES.

2. APPRECIATE IT IF DEPT WOULD INFORM SEN MAGNUSON THAT WE SHALL BE PLEASED TO BE AS HELPFUL AS WE CAN TO MR WINN, EVEN THOUGH WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE TOURIST TRAVEL TO ETHIOPIA SHOULD BE DISCOURAGED. WE DO SEE POTENTIAL PROBLEMS IN MR WINN'S DUAL ROLE, HOWEVER. AS DEPT AWARE, EPMG IS STRICTLY CONTROLLING TRAVEL OF CORRESPONDENTS TO ETHIOPIA. MOST RECENT EXAMPLE IS AMERICAN JOURNALIST WHO WAS POLITELY ASKED TO LEAVE ETHIOPIA EVEN THOUGH HE HAD VALID VISA AS JOURNALIST. HIS REQUEST TO COME TO ETHIOPIA AS JOURNALIST HAD BEEN CLEARED IN ADDIS, BUT WAS REVOKED SOON AFTER HE ARRIVED. THUS, IF MR WINN WERE TO ENTER ETHIOPIA AS TOURIST AND THEN ATTEMPT TO FUNCTION AS CORRESPONDENT ON HIGHLY SENSITIVE
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POLITICAL AND MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS, WE CAN FORESEE POTENTIALLY SERIOUS PROBLEMS FOR MR WINN, FOR OTHER US WESTERN JOURNALISTS SEEKING ENTRY TO ETHIOPIA, AND FOR OTHER AMERICAN TOURISTS WISHING TO VISIT ETHIOPIA (DEPT WILL RECALL INCIDENT INVOLVING TWO BLACK AMERICANS WHO WERE LABELLED AS CIA AGENTS LAST MARCH).

3. IN CIRCUMSTANCES, WE STRONGLY URGE THAT IF MR WINN WISHES
FUNCTION AS JOURNALIST HERE, HE APPLY FOR VISA IDENTIFYING
HIMSELF AS JOURNALIST. INTER ALIA, UNLESS HE DOES SO, IT
WILL BE DIFFICULT IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO TRY TO AR-
RANGE ANY APPOINTMENTS FOR HIM.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: WE WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF DEPT WOULD
APPRISE SEN MAGNUSON OF THE ABOVE, STRESSING THAT IF MR WINN
WISHES FUNCTION AS JOURNALIST DURING HIS VISIT, HE SHOULD
COME PROPERLY DOCUMENTED AND CLEARED AS SUCH. TO DO OTHER-
WISE COULD LEAD TO POTENTIALLY EMBARRASING SITUATION OR
HAVE EVEN MORE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ADDIS06110
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770389-0331
Format: TEL
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771030/aaaaazgc.tel
Line Count: 75
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
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Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 820252
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRAVEL OF MICHAEL WINN TO ETHIOPIA AS CORRESPONDENT
TAGS: CASC, OTRA, ET, US, (WINN, MICHAEL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ef9fdb28-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009